

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12, 14 and 16 are currently pending in this application. Claims 11, 13, 15 and 17-20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 14 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 10-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,859,664 (Daum).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 11 and 19. Independent claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 15 and 20. Claims 19 and 20 were indicated as being allowable; therefore claims 1 and 14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 10 and 12 are also believed allowable in view of their dependence on an allowable base claim. Dependent claims 11 and 15 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-9 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Daum.

Claims 2-9 are believed allowable in view of their dependence on allowable base claim 1.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 18. Claim 18 was indicated as being allowable; therefore claim 16 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As indicated above, in lieu of rewriting claim 18-20 in independent form, the subject matter of these claims – and their respective intervening claims – have been incorporated into independent claims 16, 1 and 14, respectively.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance of Applicants' claims 1-10, 12, 14 and 16 is believed to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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